Claims

1.     Method for retrieving the file system of a recording
medium, **including** the steps of:

5     - determining (2) a signature (<S>) of the recording medium by
measuring features based on a data pattern stored on the
recording medium, the signature including a plurality of
elements;
- comparing (3, 4) the signature (<S>) with a plurality of
10    signatures (10) stored in a content database; and
- retrieving (5) the associated file system from the content
database if the signature (<S>) is equal to a signature (10)
stored in the content database.


15    2.     Method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the
step of comparing (3, 4) the signature (<S>) with a plurality
of signatures (10) stored in a content database includes
evaluating (31) the distances between the determined signature
(<S>) and the signatures (10) stored in the content database.
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3.     Method according to claim 1 or 2, **wherein** the steps of
determining the signature (<S>) of the recording medium and
comparing the signature (<S>) with a plurality of signatures
include:
25    - determining (21) a first part of the signature (<S>)
including a plurality of elements (s(1), s(2), s(3),...,s(n));
- comparing (43, 44) the first part of the signature (<S>) with
corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures (10) stored
in the content database;
30    - determining (22, 23) a further part of the signature (<S>) if
the first part of the signature (<S>) is equal to the
corresponding part of at least one signature (10) stored in the
content database; and

- comparing (45, 46) the further part of the signature (<S>)
with corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures (10)
stored in the content database.

5    4.    Method according to one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized** in
that in the comparing steps (3, 4, 43, 44, 45, 46) a negative
progressive search approach is employed, in which the elements
of the determined signature (<S>) are compared with the
corresponding elements of the signatures (10) stored in the
10   content database one at a time, wherein every element of the
signature (<S>) may yield a negative search result.


5.    Method according to one of claims 1 to 4, **further**
including the steps of:
15   - obtaining (7) the file system from the recording medium if
the determined signature (<S>) is not equal to a signature (10)
stored in the content database; and
- storing (8) the obtained file system and the determined
signature (<S>) in the content database.
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6.    Method according to one of claims 1 to 5, **characterized** in
that the signature (<S>) is unique for every recording medium.


7.    Method according to one of claims 1 to 6, **wherein** the
25   signature elements are selected from the disk status such as
open or closed disk, number of sessions or number of tracks in
each session, from timing information such as the lead-in time
of each session, the lead-out time of each session, the total
time of each session or subcode information of each track, or
30   from data integrity such as data checksums of specific tracks.


8.    Apparatus for reading from and/or writing to recording
media, **characterized** in that it uses a method according to
anyone of claims 1 to 7 for retrieving the file system of the
35   recording medium.

9.    Apparatus according to claim 8, **characterized** in that it performs the retrieval of the file system of the recording medium after insertion of the recording medium, after transferral of the recording medium into a playback position, or after wake up from a power down mode.